



**Community Resources
for Independent Living**

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Mr. Bill Lockyer, State Treasurer
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: The \$10 Billion Budget Trigger

Dear Mr. Lockyer:

On behalf of Community Resource for Independent Living (CRIL), I would like to take this opportunity to express our immense concern for the current and projected California state budget being balanced at the expense of extremely low income people with disabilities. We fully appreciate that some sacrifices must be made by all Californians during this difficult time; however, the majority of multiple safety net program cuts will severely affect hundreds of thousands of very low and low income people with disabilities. The following is a tentative listing of proposed cuts:

- The upcoming Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) for SSI/SSP will be suspended;
- The Department of Developmental Disabilities (DDS) will face a ten percent cut (10%) in rates, if other options are not achieved - the December Democratic Budget Plan that was vetoed by the Governor had proposed a three percent (3%) cut.
- "Triggered" cuts (if Federal economic stimulus funding is not allocated to the State) for the *elimination* of certain optional Medi-Cal benefits (primarily dental), a reduction of SSI/SSP monthly grants for recipients of \$20 to \$35, a cap on state participation in IHSS wages for health care workers of \$9.50 per hour plus benefits, and the imposition of a share-of-cost requirement for prospective new clients.

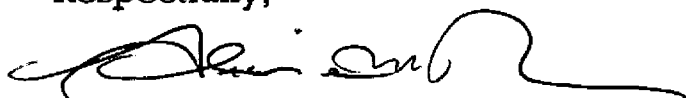
Additional cuts will come in the form of funding Proposition 98 education funding only at the minimum guarantee level; \$618 million in cuts for Home-to-

School transportation; suspension of the CalWORKS COLA and a four percent (4%) grant cut, the diversion of Proposition 10 funding for children's First 5 health programs; the diversion of Proposition 63 mental health programs for two years, both of which will require voter-approval; a variety of cuts in Higher Education funding; implementation of the Governor's furlough program for state workers and the elimination of two paid holidays for those workers; and cuts in transportation programs. Many of these programs will have an additional indirect impact on the disability community through significant reductions in safety net services.

For thirty years, CRIL has been a local, peer-based and -governed disability resource and advocacy agency serving residents of southern and eastern Alameda County. As an independent living center, CRIL's mission is to provide an array of services and advocacy assistance that people with disabilities need to improve lives and make communities fully accessible. We envision a fully accessible and accepting society where all people can realize their full potential and actively participate in their homes, work, schools and community. However, these compounded severe cuts to basic benefits and services will result in less independence, less access, a reduction in the quality of life and an increase in people needing costly emergency services.

I sincerely hope you will join me and the nearly one million Californians with disabilities in upholding the ideals of quality of life and access for all residents. Please make the determination that the \$10 billion threshold will be reached in order to qualify for the desperately needed federal funds to avoid these additional safety net reductions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sheri Burns', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sheri Burns
Executive Director